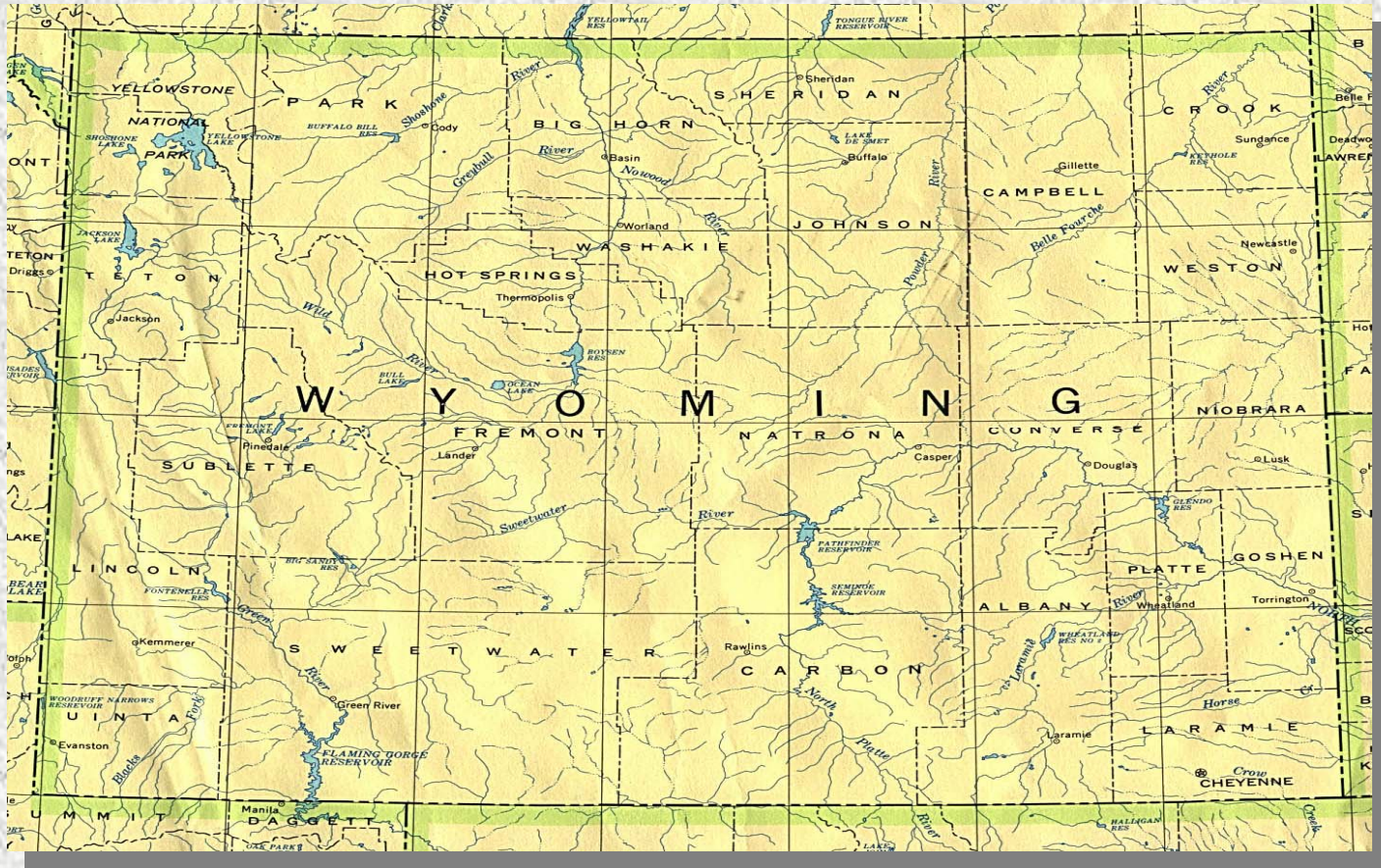


# WYOMING REDISTRICTING

## 2011-2012



**Presented by: The Joint Corporations  
Interim Committee of the 61<sup>th</sup> Legislature**

# **Purpose of this Meeting.**

- To provide you with some basic information about redistricting in Wyoming.
- To hear your comments about redistricting in your area and the state.



# What is Redistricting?

- The process of redrawing the geographic boundaries of an area from which people are elected as representatives to the state legislature or the U. S. Congress.
- Because Wyoming will continue to have only one representative in the United States House of Representatives, there is no need to redraw any boundaries for Wyoming's congressional delegation.

# **Who is responsible for redistricting and when will it occur?**

- Under the state constitution, the legislature is required to redraw state legislative districts at the first budget session following the federal census. (Wyo. Constitution, Art.3, § 48)
- The most recent U.S. census was taken in April 2010.
- The first budget session following the census will convene in February of 2012.

# **How does the Legislature accomplish redistricting?**

- The leadership of the Wyoming legislature charged the Joint Corporations Interim Committee with developing redistricting plans prior to the 2012 Session.
- Redistricting plans will be introduced as bills at the 2012 session, and they will follow the same steps as any other legislation.
- The house and senate, by majority vote, will enact a single bill containing a plan.
- New district boundaries will be used in the November 2012 elections.

# Issues to Keep in Mind

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- In the 1963 case of *Gray v. Sanders*, the United States Supreme Court announced the “one person, one vote” principle.
- Essentially, the one person, one vote principle is achieved when each legislative district has a substantially equal population.



In interpreting the one person, one vote principle, the U.S. Supreme Court has said:

- A Plan with 10% or less maximum population deviation from the ideal is “considered to be of prima facie constitutional validity.”
- A Plan with maximum population deviation greater than 10% from the ideal “creates a prima facie case of discrimination and therefore must be justified by the State.”

# Redistricting Terminology: “Ideal District Population” and “Maximum Population Deviation”.

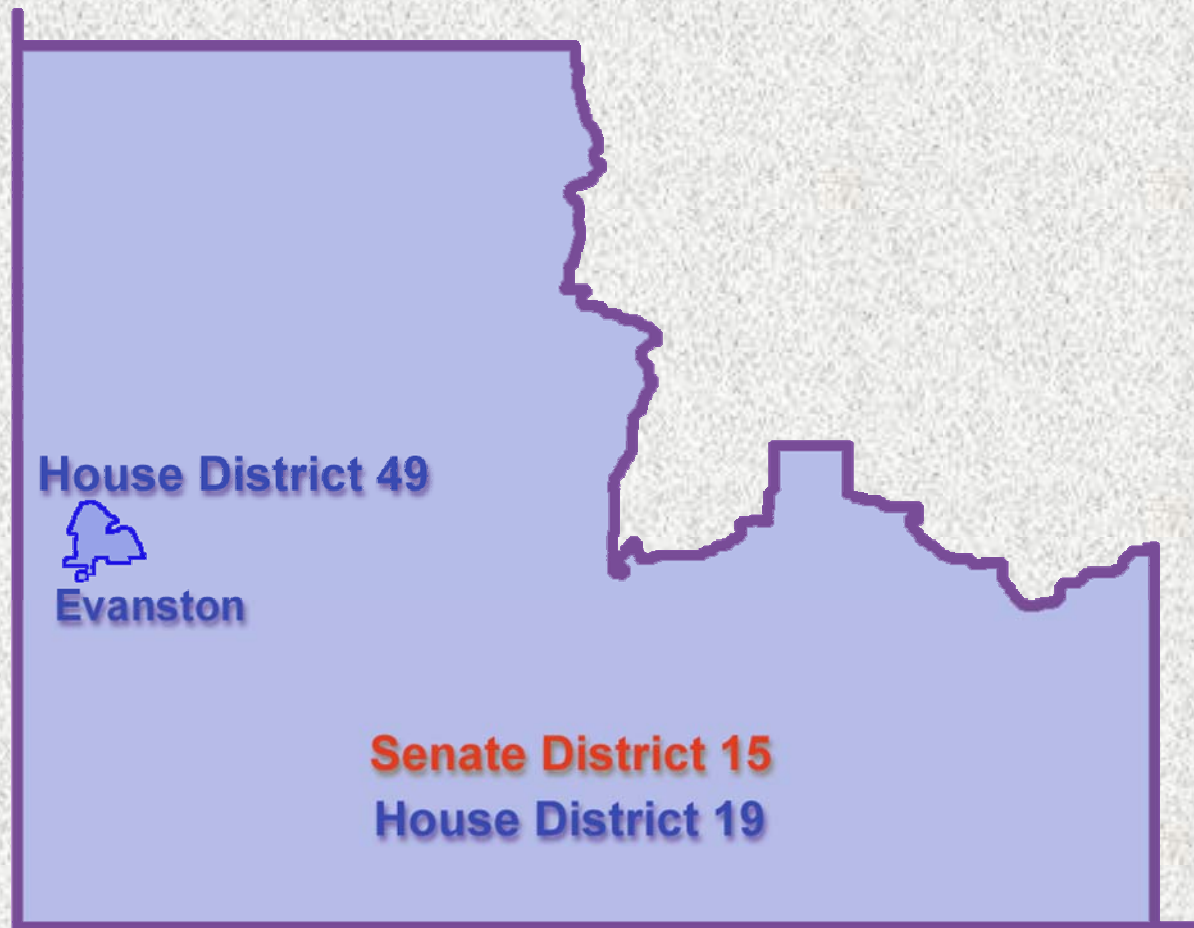
- ***Ideal district population*** is found by dividing the total state population by the number of districts.
- ***Maximum population deviation*** from the ideal district population can be described as the absolute range between the district with the greatest positive deviation and the district with the greatest negative deviation from the ideal.



# **Wyoming's Current Legislative Districts**

- Adopted in 2002.
- 30 single member Senate Districts
- 60 single member House Districts
- Two (2) contiguous House Districts  
“nested” into each Senate District.

# What's nesting?



# Wyoming's Current Legislative Districts

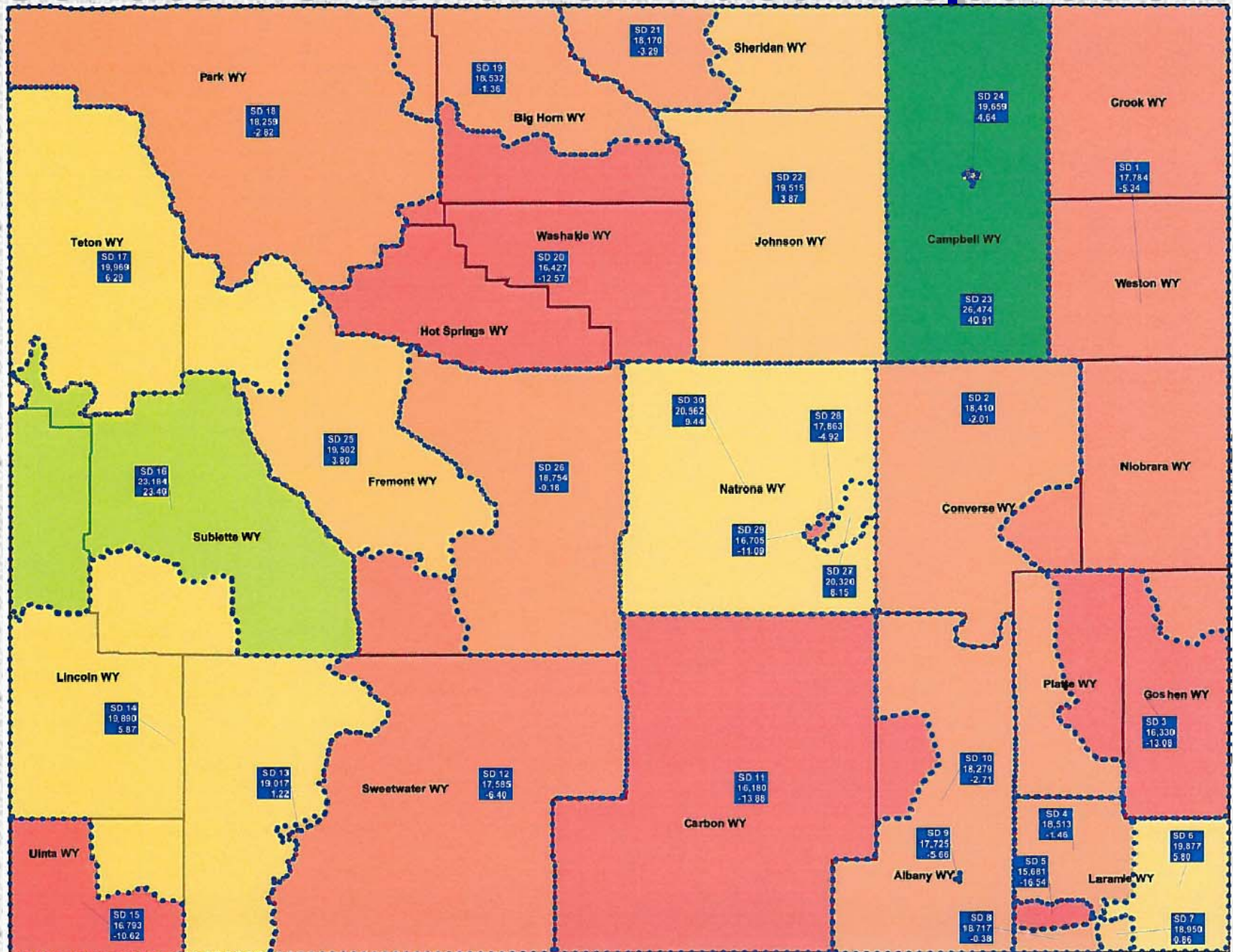
- Maximum population deviation is less than 10%.
- The 2002 redistricting plan was not challenged in court.
- The Wyoming redistricting plan of 1992 was upheld by federal district court for Wyoming. Deviations fell below the minimum threshold. The court concluded the redistricting plans met overriding objective of substantial equality of population among legislative districts.



# **A Growing and Shifting State Population**

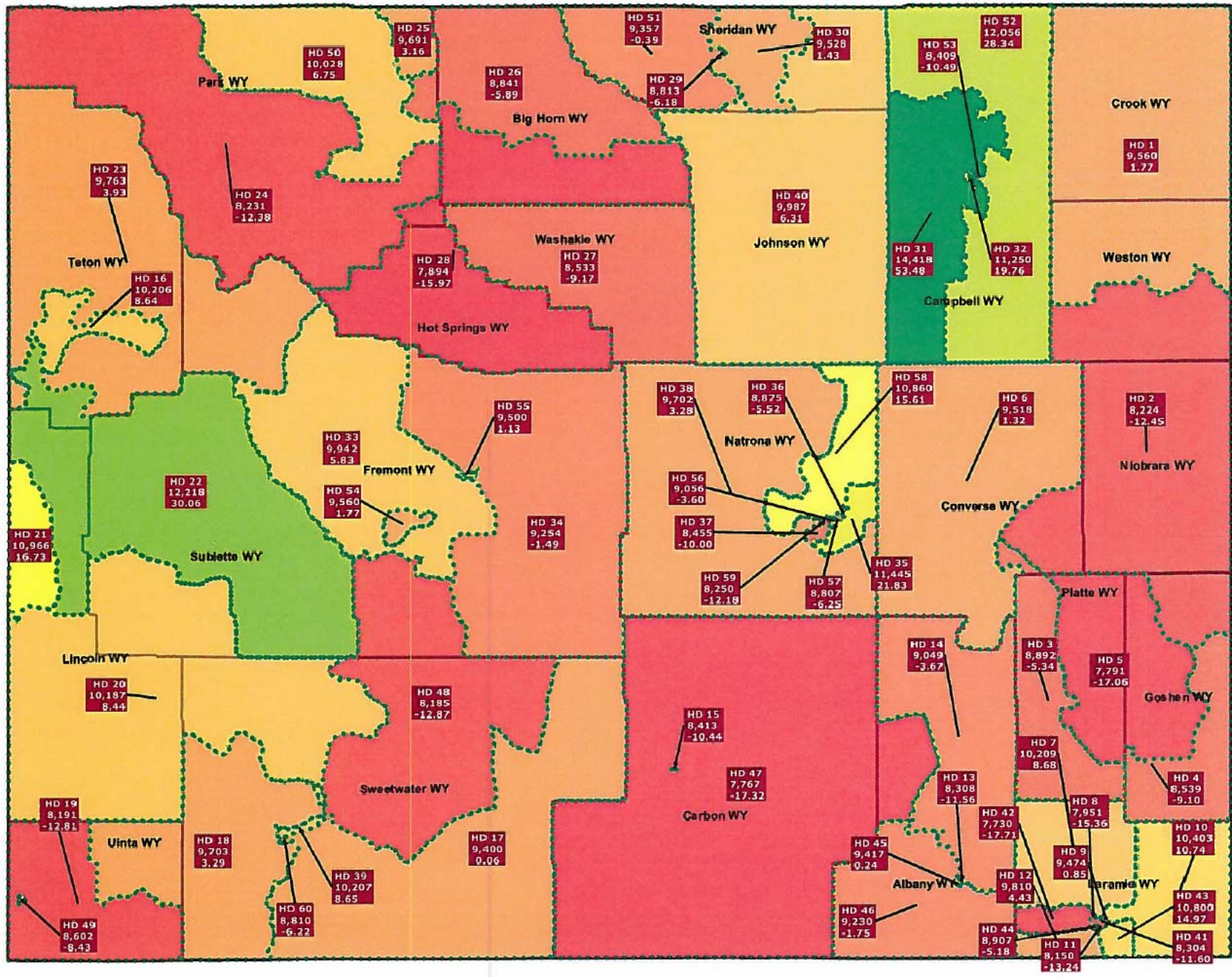
Why can't Wyoming's legislative districts remain as they are?

# Senate Percent from Ideal Population





# House Percent from Ideal Population





# **The Committee's Redistricting Work in the Coming Months**

The committee will begin building possible redistricting plans based on the following Redistricting Principles:

# **2011 WYOMING REDISTRICTING PRINCIPLES**

**ADOPTED BY JOINT  
CORPORATIONS COMMITTEE**

**April 12, 2011**

# **Draft Redistricting Principles**

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1. Election districts should be contiguous, compact, and reflect a community of interest;
2. Population of election districts should be substantially equal, with the range of deviation not to exceed 10%;



3. To the greatest extent possible, in establishing election districts:

- a. County boundaries should be followed;
- b. The majority of the population of each county should be in one district;
- c. Census blocks should be followed.

4. Plan should avoid diluting voting power of minorities in violation of [federal] Voting Rights Act;

5. The house shall have 60 seats and the senate shall have 30 seats;
6. Consideration should be given to two (2) contiguous house districts in each senate district; and
7. Significant geographical features should be considered in establishing districts.

# Redistricting Calendar 2011-12

- May -August : Public education/hearings:
  - May 25: Rock Springs and Pinedale
  - June 14: Casper and Wright
  - June 28: Laramie and Cheyenne
  - July 12: Powell and Worland
  - July 13: Lander and Rawlins
  - August 15: Torrington
- August 15-16: Full Corporations Committee Meeting (Cheyenne)
- September-December: Narrowing number of likely plans; Additional Public Hearings and Full Committee Meeting Possible
- December 2011- January 2012: Education of public and full legislature; Full Committee Meeting
- Session 2012: Enact new redistricting plan
- November 2012: Elections use new district boundaries



# How can you share your thoughts?

- Express your comments right now or at any future meeting of the committee;
- Contact your local representative or senator;
- Express your comments through the “Redistricting Information” page on the Legislature’s website:  
<http://legisweb.state.wy.us>